

Appl. No. 10/050,260
Final Amendment and/or Response
Reply to final Office action of 30 November 2004

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

The Office action provisionally rejects claims 1-14 and 19 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over copending U.S. patent application 10/050,249 and Kawana et al. (USP 6,404,131).

A Terminal Disclaimer was filed in this application under separate cover on 29 December 2004, signed by an attorney of record, to overcome this provisional double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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